



Weekly Views

Indiana Department of Correction

July 2, 2015



MIAMI P.L.U.S. UNIT DONATES 10K to GILEAD HOUSE: Miami Correctional Facility's PLUS (Purposeful Living Units Serve) Offenders made a \$10,000 donation to the Gilead House in Kokomo. Facility inmates had an opportunity to purchase name brand items such as headphones, tennis shoes, watches, cheese and spices. More than 1500 individual offenders placed orders, with more than 6000 items processed and delivered. In order to deliver items quickly and efficiently, the facility was locked down for about nine hours. An endeavor as large as this takes months of planning and countless man hours. And in this operation. More than 30 PLUS Program participants and 30 administrative and custody staff

worked together to deliver everything. "It was good to see how smooth the operation went with the teamwork of MCF Staff and inmates working side by side," Superintendent Kathy Griffin said.

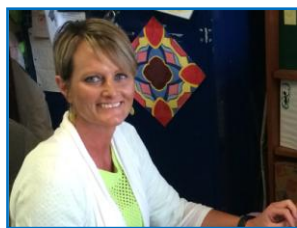
IDOC OUTFRONS THE SUN IN RACE AGAINST MELANOMA: 36 Indiana Department of Correction staff and their families from around the State joined together as Team RCF (Rockville Correctional Facility) at the picturesque Fort Harrison State Park in the heart of Indianapolis for the Outrun the Sun Race against Melanoma 5 mile / 5 kilometer event on June 13, 2015. Team RCF was able to raise \$1,866 for the Race against Melanoma, ranking seventh of the 76 teams in the amount raised.



Racer (?) David Manson said, "I would like to express a huge thank you to all who participated in or otherwise supported this event with their time, effort, support, and dollars. I am so thankful, greatly blessed, and proud to be a part of the RCF and IDOC community."

ISP OFFENDERS RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT GARY HOMELESS SHELTER:

Indiana State Prison Superintendent Ron Neal announced with great pleasure the donation to "The Sojourner Truth House" located in Gary, IN. The donation consisted of a check for \$500. Offenders responsible for raising the funds and giving the donation are in the Purposeful Living Units Serve (PLUS) at the Indiana State Prison. "The Sojourner Truth House offers [day-shelter services](#) for women from a nearby homeless shelter, and women and children staying in area shelters or residing with family or friends, who must leave those premises for the day. The Sojourner Truth House, armed with an eye to the mind, body and spirit of each client, provides various support groups, counseling, individualized goal setting, budgeting, health screenings, assistance in obtaining birth certificates and IDs, transportation, legal assistance, meals, laundry facilities, clothing, furniture, household items, food pantry services, computer training, referrals and assistance with job searches, medical care, housing and utilities."



Division OF YOUTH SERVICES ANNOUNCES THREE CEEAS NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS:

Three educators from DYS were awarded the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative CEEAS "Lighting the Fire Awards". The "Lighting the Fire Award" is a nationwide competition to recognize outstanding educational professionals working in youth correctional settings and is given to visionary educators that have shown their investment in students, persevere in a challenging environment, communicate high expectations, and maintain a commitment to the education community. The three award recipients are: Jennifer Matson (left), Guidance Counselor at Pendleton Juvenile, "Highest Honors;" and Christopher DeHart (center), social studies teacher at Pendleton Juvenile and Amanda DeHart (right), English teacher at Pendleton Juvenile, "Honorable Mention," for their exceptional work in the classroom.



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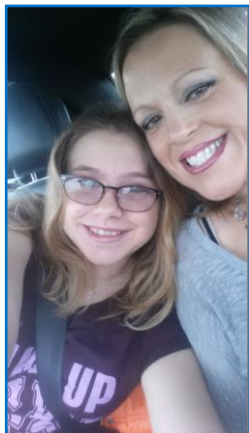


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IDOC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT



She originally joined the IDOC to support herself and her lovely daughter. Nineteen years and four months later Angela McLaughlin, the darling of Linton, IN, is still at Wabash Correctional Facility, knowing she's doing something positive and making a difference. As I talked to her co-workers I discovered that around the facility she was affectionately known as "Sole Sister" because of her love of shoes. I also picked up on the rumor that she had mad culinary skills.

"She was the runner up for the new spokesperson for the new Kentucky Fried Chicken marketing campaign" gushed one of her co-workers. "But when they asked for her recipe she balked, so they went with that creepy guy dressed in white." As a matter of fact even the offenders knew about her cooking.

"Her fried chicken is the reason I asked to be transferred here," chimed in one offender as we strolled across yard.

Angela, the mother of two and grandmother of two, has a very positive outlook on life. "You only live once so enjoy your turn to the fullest." I can dig it. This Sole Sister is very committed to the job, so much so that if she was Commissioner, she'd try and promote legislation mandating that all offenders must be enrolled in education if they do not a diploma or equivalent. You go girl.

If ever given an opportunity to ask Commissioner Lemmon a question she provided the first of its kind, "I'd ask if he'd take me golfing. I've never been before." Anyone who knows the Commissioner knows that she won't be able to find a better instructor.

In five years this exceptional case worker imagines herself working in the Unit Team as a Casework Manager. "I'd be surprise if it takes that long," remarked one of her supervisors who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Perhaps then she'll give up that chicken recipe." I only nodded... based on what I was hearing from others, I doubted that it would come at such a low price.

Caseworker McLaughlin is an outdoor person who loves to spend her free time camping, fishing and gardening with her kids, grandkids, boyfriend and dogs. And it was no surprise when she told me a fun fact about her was that her dream job would be a professional Bass Fisherman! Yep you heard me... A Bass Fisherman! Got to love it!

When asked what was her most memorable day she replied with a big grin "December 6, 2015 when I graduated from Offenders Work Force Development training to become a certified OWDS!" Having been recruited to participate but lacking the fortitude because of the rigorous curriculum and training required I was definitely impressed.

Now if you know someone thinking about a career in corrections, then please share Angela's advice to them "Keep an open mind when it comes to change and above all keep a positive attitude."

Well said Sole Sister #1! **HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!**



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